

IRAQI DESTINY

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Amnesty out: *Violators will be prosecuted, every soldiers responsibility*

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

The amnesty period for weapons turn-in is over. All soldiers have a responsibility to enforce the policy on weapons possession, said Col. Joseph Anderson, commander, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault).

"If you see a guy on the street with a weapon, stop him, let him know you mean business and take the weapon," said Sgt. Billy East, 108th Military Police Company, (Airborne).

Before such action is taken, however, soldiers need to make sure that the person in question does not have a weapons permit,

which allows them to carry a weapon as part of their job, according to Capt. John Boyer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Abn. Div. (AAslt.). "As long as they have their permit, and aren't committing a criminal act, their weapon cannot be confiscated," Boyer said.

Once apprehended, the perpetrator and the weapon or weapons need to be transported to the nearest police station with a coalition presence, East said.

"There are several substations within the area of operations that you can bring them to," he said.

The job of getting weapons off the streets and making the city of Mosul a safer place is not just the job of the infantry or MPs, according to East, it is the responsibility of every soldier.

Looters released 140 Mosul prisoners

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

Several incidents facing the city of Mosul were handled by soldiers of the 101st Military Police Company, (Air Assault) June 13.

One incident involved a local prison. A group of looters apparently released 140 prisoners and looted the building in the process.

"The guards at the prison told us that at about 11 p.m., a large group of people came at the jail from two sides and shot at them," said Sgt. Edgar Ford, 101st MP Co. (AAslt.). "Though they say they were shot at, there appear to be no injuries."

The looters were not kind to the jail. Bullet holes pepper the walls, the doors that once held the inmates in their cells have been ripped off their hinges, and the entire building is in total disarray.

This is a major setback for the police force of Mosul, both military and civilian, Ford said. "There were people being held



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Spc. Jeremy Ostrom, 63rd Chemical Company, escorts a detainee into a local police station. The man was apprehended while looting a bank.

for everything from looting to murder," he said. "Now that they're all back on the streets, it's like going back to square one."

Another issue they faced was the loss of morale with their civilian counterparts. "We had them doing a great job up until yesterday," Ford said.

The riot which occurred June 12 at the mayor's office proved to be a big set back for the police of Mosul, according to Ford.

Several policemen were positioned on the roof of a building and fired warning shots to try to disperse the angry mob.

Soldiers mistook them for rioters,

handcuffed them and led them downstairs.

When they were seen by the people, it was an embarrassment to them to be bound and rendered powerless by coalition forces, according to Ford.

Though it was a case of mistaken identity and the policemen were later released, it has crushed their morale and their confidence, he added.

"I think we have an awesome relationship with the local police and will have it again once this situation cools down and

"Prisoners" continued on page 2

Four soldiers narrowly escape harm in grenade attack on 101st compound

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Four soldiers avoided injury after a grenade exploded within feet of their position during a routine patrol early Saturday morning. The soldiers, from Company A, 3rd Battalion 327 Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), were pulling guard just outside the Civilian Military Operations Center in Mosul.

"The lord was on our side, it had nothing to do with luck." Spc. Eric Corrales of Los Angeles, said after his brush with death. "I couldn't even sleep last night."

Corrales, Spc. Paul Joseph of Aurorn, Col., Pfc. Josh Wolfgram of Wahpeton,

N.D., and Pfc. David Tommarelo of Mars, Penn., were outside the perimeter of the CMOC pulling guard after midnight when they were attacked. A white vehicle

passed by with a man in black headdress and a white dishdashe (a traditional Arab male dress) in the passenger seat.

The passenger, according to the four soldiers, tossed a grenade in their direction.

"As soon as I turned my head my buddy (Corrales) yelled 'grenade!'" said Wolfgram. "We think the curb deflected the blast away from us."

The soldiers quickly fell to the ground to protect themselves from the blast, returned to their feet and returned fire at the assailant.

The four soldiers simply reacted the way they were trained, according to Tommarelo.

The vehicle managed to get away but, the soldiers did not discount the possibility that they were able to shoot their target.

"The lord was on our side, it had nothing to do with luck."

- Spc. Eric Corrales of Los Angeles

"I had him in my sights," Wolfgram said.

None of the four soldiers were seriously injured in the attack.

Only Joseph came away with any injuries after he bruised his knee when jumping to the ground to brace for the blast.

"I was very close to dying. I was very lucky that someone up there was watching over me," Joseph remarked.

101st officials throughout the city quickly responded to the attack, with several Kiowa surveillance helicopters patrolling the city into the morning.

The incident is still under the investigation.

"Prisoners" continued from page 1

goes back to normal," he said. "And I do believe that the joint patrol program we've been working on has been a success."

One call led them back to the mayor's office where an angry mob was gathered and stirring up trouble.

They apprehended several individuals who were looting a bank across the street and led them into the compound that once held the Civil Military Operations Center.

The crowd angry chanted and shouted as they threw rocks

at soldiers as the soldiers escorted the detainees to a more secure location.

Thankfully, they did not escalate from stone throwing and no one was hurt.

It was all in a day's work for the 101st MP Co. (AAlt.).

"My guys are out there risking their lives every day," Ford said.

They enforce the laws, keep the peace and assist local police in doing the job so that when they are no longer here, their civilian counterparts will be able to do it by themselves.

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1-320th Field Artillery, Rabbi help rebuild local school

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

A West Mosul school dilapidated by years of neglect is now undergoing renovations courtesy of a chaplain and the soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 320th Field Artillery Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

"This school is going through a total remodeling," said Capt. John Dolina of Washington, D.C., commander, Battery B, 1-320th. "It's going to take, altogether, about two to three weeks."

The school, as the unit found it several weeks ago, was hardly fit for education for its nearly 1,000 students, according to Dolina.

Water leaks had eroded the walls and ceilings, the plumbing had decayed to the point that the restrooms were not operational and structural damage had rendered a number of classrooms to ruins.

Capt. Andrew Glover of Shohamash, Wash., a physician with 1-320th conducted a health assessment of the facility and was left with nothing but disgust. "This is what the kids were left with, it's horrible."

Soldiers from the 1-320th are currently working with civilians to rebuild and clean up the school.

An allotment of \$10,000 has been given by the 1st Bde., 320th FA Rgt. and Division Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) for the project.

Two other schools in the battalion's area of operation have received \$2,500 of funding for reconstruction efforts. "We have submitted project bids for two other schools, we just haven't gotten approval for them yet," according to Dolina.

Both Glover and Dolina praised the efforts of the schools teachers who showed up to teach classes during the war, even though most of the frightened students didn't show up.

"This is the result of years of neglect from Saddam," Dolina said.

Chap. (Maj.) Carlos Huerta of Brooklyn, N.Y., Jewish chaplain for the 1-320th, has lobbied for funding to rebuild this school, and other neglected schools around the city.

"No kid deserves to go to school here," Huerta remarked.



Pfc Thomas Day

Chap. (Maj.) Carlos Huerta of Brooklyn, N.Y., Jewish chaplain for the 1-320th Field Artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), gives a Mosul youth a "high five" as he tours a local school dilapidated by neglect. Huerta, along with the soldiers of the 1st Battalion of the 320th Field Artillery Regiment, has been working on efforts to rebuild the school.

The school is currently finishing the school year with final examinations.

Much like the effect of a couple snow days for students in the United States, the

school days cancelled during the war were not missed. These school days were made up at the end of the scheduled school year.

Soldiers renew confidence



Spc. Joshua M. Risner

Sgt. Omali Longwell, 584th Maintenance Company, administers an IV at a combat lifesaver recertification class June 16.

Combat lifesavers throughout Mosul gather to better their skills in case the need arises

By Spc. Joshua M. Risner
40th PAD

The heat is rising. Re-certification comes at a good time. Soldiers with Company E, 801st Main Support Battalion, held a combat lifesaver recertification class, June 16 at the Division Rear.

This is the third class given here according to Sgt. Kimberly L. Morris, Co. E, 801st MSB.

"Right now, all we're offering is the two-day recertification class because we're still waiting for the supplies to do the 40-hour beginning class," she said.

The classes get a good turn-out Morris added. "We're averaging about 20 to 30 people per class," she said.

The soldiers taking the classes seem eager to test their skills on fellow soldiers.

"This environment has more people anxious to give IVs than in garrison," Morris said.

"Back there it's usually just about promotion points, but now they're in a place where they might have to use what they've learned," he said.

This gives way to having a variety of soldiers, units and ranks participating in the class.

"We have a warrant officer in this class; that almost never happens back at Fort Campbell," Morris said.

The recertification class consists of refreshing soldiers on administering IVs and then testing them on it.

Even though these people have already gone through the combat lifesaver course in the past, some are still a little squeamish about either giving an IV or receiving one, according to Morris. "You see a lot of people who are scared of needles, whether they're first-timers or recerts," she said.

Shinseki, Franks quietly two of the finest generals in the history of the Army

By Pfc. Thomas Day
40th PAD

Just as Generals Bradley, MacArther, Patton, Eisenhower and Marshall won World War II and saved the world for this generation of Americans, Gen. Eric Shinseki and Gen. Tommy Franks have laid a foundation for America's next victory in the War on Terrorism. History should and will recognize their accomplishments.

This week Gen. Shinseki retired as the Army Chief of Staff after 38 years of service to the Army; Gen. Franks will retire later this summer after 36 years after finishing his tour as commander of U.S. Central Command.

Both Shinseki and Franks are intertwined and remarkably similar in a number of ways. In his second tour of duty in Vietnam in 1970, Shinseki lost part of a foot that would incapacitate him from the field for over 10 years. Franks was shot during three different missions in battle with the 9th Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

Gen. Shinseki, appointed by President Clinton's Secretary of Defense William Cohen in June of 1999, immediately began reworking the Army to make forces more mobile without exposing light forces to vulnerability. His vision came to fruition with the Army's performance in Operation Iraqi Freedom, particularly the performance of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized).

"I say for one last time, my name is Shinseki and I am a soldier and proud of it," the Army Chief of Staff said in his final goodbye June 11 at Fort Myer, Va.

It was Shinseki who trained and armed the Army that defeated the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam in Iraq. While current Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld may crave and receive the credit for the U.S. Army's performance in the War on Terrorism, the Army's facelift began while George W. Bush was governor of Texas.

Shinseki, whose vision for the Army was in many ways in sync with Secretary Rumsfeld's ideas, seemed to have a tempestuous relationship with the Defense Secretary. Shinseki directly denounced Rumsfeld's efforts to pair two or more divisions and over 80,000 troops from the Army's arsenal in his goodbye address at Fort Myer. Rumsfeld was in Europe as Shinseki said his goodbye and did not send a major representative on his behalf.

Further suggesting a tense relationship between the Army's top officer and the defense secretary, Rumsfeld has reportedly decided to replace Shinseki with retired general Eric Schoomaker, the first Army Chief of Staff in our 228-year history that has come from out of retirement. It doesn't take an insider to see that

Schoomaker was chosen because of an ideological synchronicity with the defense secretary.

Shinseki may have sealed the recent (forced) retirement of Secretary of the Army Thomas White after he testified on Capitol Hill this winter that "several hundred thousand" troops would be needed to stabilize Iraq after the war. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz denounced that suggestion and when White came to his top general's defense, Rumsfeld made his decision to remove White from the Pentagon.

With recent events, it seems pretty apparent that Shinseki may have been on to something and he, not Wolfowitz or Rumsfeld, knew what America's forces are up against today five months ago.

Shinseki's vision and willingness to fight for the Army's interests should have earned him the respect and admiration of every one of the 480,000 soldiers under his command at any point in time while he served at the Army Chief of Staff. It was his Army that defeated the enemies of freedom in Iraq and Afghanistan and his vision that enabled his soldiers to do so.

Gen. Franks was a great deal more successful than Shinseki in dealing with Secretary Rumsfeld. It was Franks that was able to persuade Rumsfeld to deploy the five divisions and five carrier groups that fought in the second Gulf War. Rumsfeld originally wanted a much lighter force.

Franks' war plan, criticized at the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, defeated Saddam with 128 American combat fatalities. I can't help but think that number would have been considerably larger had, say, the 82nd Airborne Division and/or the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) not been a part of the effort. The ultimate success of the mission was never in doubt, but if Franks hadn't won the war of wills with Rumsfeld, the timetable may have been different.

Franks was also criticized after hundreds of al-Qaeda terrorists, possibly including Osama bin Laden himself, escaped the hills of Tora-Bora into Pakistan during operations in the fall of 2001 in Afghanistan. What can't be doubted though is that Franks accomplished in months what could have taken years longer in defeating the Taliban.

The Afghanistan mission must have seemed like a military and political jigsaw puzzle. First, Franks' troops had to fight in a terrain unlike any the Army had fought on before. Finding targets in a sea of caves and hills must have been like finding a contact lens in a pool, as I'm certain any soldier who deployed as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom will tell you.

Rebuilding Afghanistan, a mission that still continues today, may be an unreachable star ultimately, but President Hamid Karzai and the Afghan people stand with America in destroying the Al-Qaeda in and around their country.

This partnership is an accomplishment orchestrated in part by Gen. Tommy Franks. The coalition assembled under the U.S. Centcom is breaking down the Al-Qaeda terrorist by terrorist.

Gen. Franks will join Gen. Shinseki in the ranks of the retired July 1, likely to be replaced by his deputy, Lt. Gen. John Abizaid, as commander of U.S. Centcom.

While he has been unable to become the household name he should be, not that he seeks that kind of limelight, his career will always be remembered by those who serve and love the U.S. Army.

I can only hope that one day Gen. Shinseki and Gen. Franks join the pantheon of mythical general officers.

Man on the Street

How do you think the 140 prisoners released by looters in Mosul will affect future operations for the soldier?



"It might pull man power from other things," Spc. Jason Doane of Vincennes, Ind., Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



"They'll probably be hiding from us, it's not going to affect us at all," Spc. Mario Bustamante of San Antonio, Texas, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Division Support Command, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).



"Logically it's something bad for all these bad people to be back into society," Salmon Hazim Jasim, linguist.



"Not much should change. We should keep this in the back of our heads," Capt. Rick Pacanowski of St. Louis, Mo., division radio officer, 501st Signal Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

What do you do if you see someone with a weapon?

You're on a mission and you see a man carrying an AK-47 down the street. He doesn't appear to be hostile, but the sight of him with a weapon makes you uneasy. What do you do?

Confront him, but be aware that some citizens have permits that allow them to openly carry weapons up to a 7.62mm, according to Capt. John Boyer of the staff judge advocate's office, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 101st Airborne Division, (Air Assault).

"If they have a weapons permit, then they have every right to carry that weapon," Boyer said. "But that permit must be kept on their person at all times while they are carrying that weapon. If they say they have one and don't have it on them, then you should take that weapon."

Another issue would be weapons in homes. If kept in their houses, citizens are allowed to possess one weapon up to 7.62mm. As long as that weapon stays in the house, it is legal for them to keep it. Once that weapon leaves their house, without a permit, they have broken the law, Boyer added.

Most people who have weapons permits are policemen, security guards, government officials and individuals assisting coalition forces. Their weapons cannot be confiscated provided they have their permits with them and provided they are not engaged in a criminal act.

They are not doing anything wrong by displaying their weapon in a public place, according to Boyer.

Not everyone out there with a weapon on their belt, in their hands or otherwise, is a criminal and should not be treated as one, Boyer added.

Any questions can be referred to the 503rd Military Police Battalion, 589-0003.



This is a sample weapons permit. A real one would have a picture ID and a stamp from the brigade that issued it. Weapons permits must be carried by the individual whenever he has his weapon or the weapon will be subject to confiscation. As long as the card is carried and the individual commits no criminal acts, their weapon is legal to carry in public. Individuals may possess one weapon in their household without a permit, but the weapon cannot leave that house.